

SCOTTSDALE - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today hosted his first Veterans Fair at Scottsdale Community College. More than 30 local, state and federal veterans' organizations were on hand to provide information about benefits and programs available to veterans. Experts also gave seminars on topics ranging from the new Post-9/11 GI Bill to VA medical benefits and the claims process, home loans and vocational rehab.

"We have a responsibility to serve those who have bravely served us," Mitchell said. "Part of that service includes making sure that veterans are aware of the benefits, services and educational opportunities available to them. As a member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, and as the representative of more than 65,000 veterans here in my district, I take this responsibility very seriously."

Veterans were able to take advantage of the information and services from the more than 30 participating organizations. They were also able to meet one-on-one with representatives from the all of the various organizations on site.

Organizations participating included:

VA Medical, VA Regional Office, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, Troops to Teachers, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, My Healthe Vet, Scottsdale Community College, Madison Street Veterans' Association, Sentinels of Freedom, Mesa Community College, Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, University of Phoenix, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix College, Rio Salado College, Small Business Administration, USCIS (Immigration), Social Security Administration and the Internal Revenue Service.

This was the first Veterans Fair organized by Mitchell. The idea to host a fair came about from several successful workshops that Mitchell hosted last year, where veterans were able to learn about the GI Bill, register for medical benefits, learn more about the educational institutions in the area and talk to representatives from various Veterans Service Organizations.

Earlier in the day, Mitchell was honored to help kick off the sixth annual Pat's Run in Tempe.

He also met with local veterans who are members of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) which were participating in the race to honor Pat Tillman's legacy of leadership and civic action.